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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/526,031	03/15/2000	Jonathan J. Hull	74451.P114	9293

7590 01/22/2007

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EXAMINER	
TRAN, QUOC A	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2176	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/22/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/526,031	HULL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tran A. Quoc	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *03 May 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,4,5,8-13,16,17,20-25,28,29,32-36 and 44-52* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1, 4-5, 8-13, 16-17, 20-25, 28-29, 32-36, and 44-52* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a **Non-Final** rejection in response to amendments/remarks/RCE filed 5-3-2006.

2. Claims 1, 4-5, 8-13, 16-17, 20-25, 28-29, 32-36, and 44-52 are pending in the case. Claims 2-3, 6-7, 14-15, 18-19, 26-27, 30-31, and 37-43 are canceled.

3. Effective filing date is 3-15-2000.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

4. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 05-03-2006 has been entered.

Claim Objection

5. Claim 44 (Currently Amended) of the amendment filed 05-03-2006 was not properly marking to show changes (i.e., for deletion of five or fewer consecutive characters, double bracket [[ ]] may be used. Any future correspondence must contain the proper marking to show changes. (MPEP 37 CFR 1.121)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> ***(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.***

7. Claims 1, 4-5, 8-11, 13, 16-17, 20-23, 25, 28-29, 32-35, and 44-52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schena et al. (hereinafter Schena), US 6,448,979 B1 filed 1/25/1999, in view of Robinson et al. "The Origami Project: Paper Interfaces to the World-Wide Web", [http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/Research/Origami/Origami1997f/index.html], submitted to Webnet 97 in November 1997 (hereinafter Robinson).

Regarding independent claims 1, 13, and 25, Schena teaches **the multimedia annotation representing at least one of an audio sound and a video clip, wherein the at least one of the audio sound and video clip to be extracted from the multimedia annotation, and the at least one extracted audio sound and video clip can be played via a multimedia player, and the multimedia annotation represented by a first bar code encoding at least one of an audio sound and a video clip, wherein the at least one of the audio sound and video clip** Specifically, Schena discloses the multimedia annotation such that the multimedia annotation can be extracted and decoded subsequently from the first multimedia document, wherein the scanner detects and reads data, such as machine-readable codes containing link information corresponding to provider information from the printed medium. The link information

corresponding to the provider information may include, a universal resource locator (URL), such as customer premises equipment (CPE) for displaying the multimedia sequence information. The multimedia sequence information may be advertising or transaction information and may contain one or more of textual, audio, or video information, and the customer premises equipment ("CPE"), serving as the receiver, plays multimedia sequence (Schena col.1, line 64 through col. 2. line 40). In addition, Schena discloses the scanner is capable of reading data such as non-coded data and machine-readable code 10 from the printed medium 50. The machine-readable code 10 (URL) may be a barcode, an enhanced barcode, a new enhanced code, or any type of code, including dynamic codes and high-density barcodes (Schena col. 3, lines 55-65).

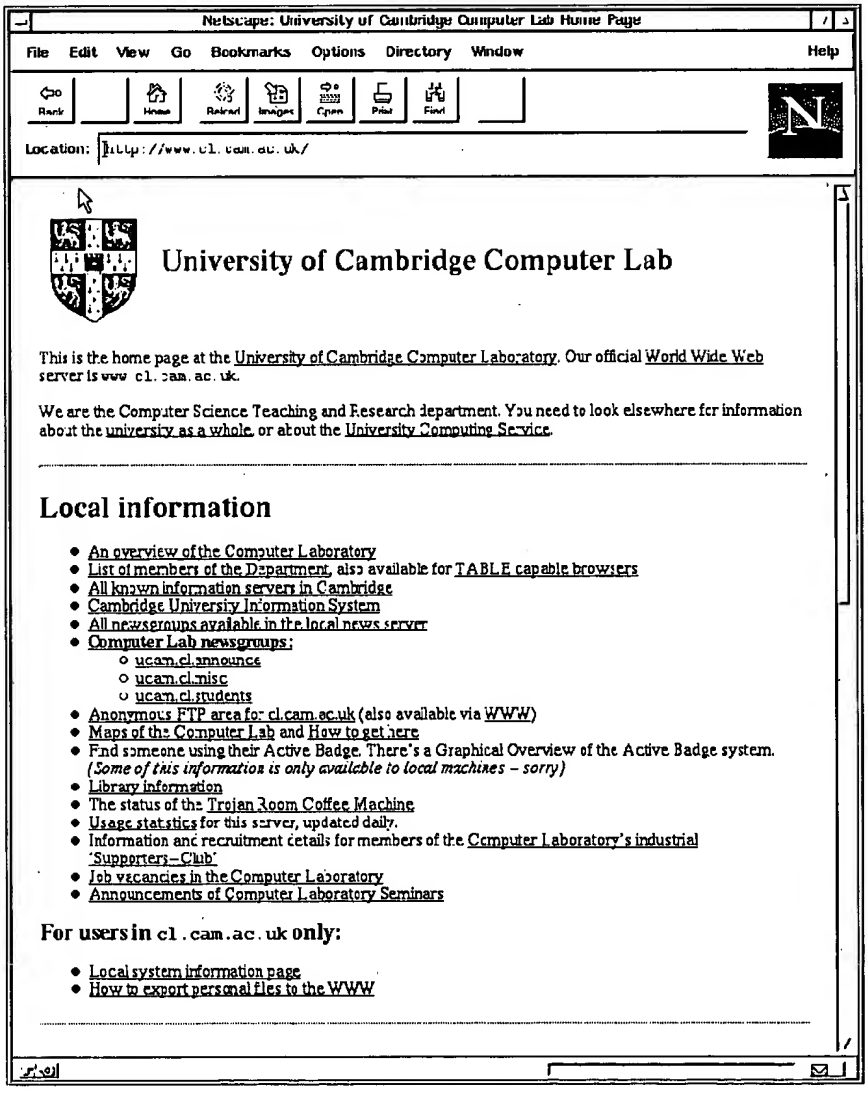
The Examiner equates the claimed **the multimedia annotation representing at least one of an audio sound and a video clip** as equivalent to the link information may contain one or more of textual, audio, or video information as taught by Schena, and the claimed **a multimedia** as equivalent to the plays multimedia sequence as taught by Schena. Also, the Examiner equates the claimed **bar code encoding at least one of an audio sound and a video clip** as equivalent to the link information from barcode, code 10 (URL) may contain one or more of textual, audio, or video information as taught by Schena, and because the Applicant invention specification discloses "The annotation may be in different forms, such as, for example, a bar code containing an audio message or a URL indicating a link to a video clip ." (Applicants invention specification page 7 lines 15-18).

In addition, Schena does not explicitly teach, but Robinson teaches **creating a multimedia annotation for a paper document, and creating a first multimedia document by combining the paper document and the multimedia annotation, wherein the first**

multimedia document is generated as a part of reproducing the paper document via a document reproduction system, and wherein the first multimedia document, which when scanned by a process, the process causes the printed multimedia annotation to be decoded. Specifically, Robinson discloses the origami project, wherein the printed documents are annotated with marks in their corners to facilitate recognition and location on the desk top, and are also have a unique identifier printed in an OCR fount (see Robinson page 4 section Printing), these steps involve recognizing that a page printed by the system has appeared on the desk, determining its position, reading its unique identifier and locating any interactors. A transformation is then set up between the page representation stored in the registry and physical co-ordinates on the desktop. The printed document thus becomes part of the projected window system, wherein any active links are highlighted by projecting a red background over them. For a document originating on the Web, these correspond to links in the original HTML (Robinson page 4 section DigitalDesk, also see fig. 2 a-c, as example of the process of annotating a printed media).

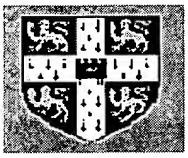
It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Schena to include a method for creating a multimedia annotation for a paper document, and creating a first multimedia document by combining the paper document and the multimedia annotation, wherein the first multimedia document is generated as a part of reproducing the paper document via a document reproduction system, and wherein the first multimedia document, which when scanned by a process, the process causes the printed multimedia annotation to be decoded as taught by Robinson. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination, because Schena and Robinson are from

the same field of endeavor of providing multimedia annotation for a paper document and for the advantage of bridging the gap between the virtual multimedia-based of the Internet word and the physical world of printed media, wherein the annotate media may contain one or more of textual, audio, or video information, and the customer premises equipment ("CPE"), serving as the receiver, plays multimedia sequence (Schena col.1, lines 5-15, col. 1 line 64 through col. 2. line 40).



(a) Original Web page

University of Cambridge Computer Lab Home Page



University of Cambridge Computer Lab

This is the home page at the University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory . Our official World Wide Web server is www.cl.cam.ac.uk .
We are the Computer Science Teaching and Research department. You need to look elsewhere for information about the university as a whole , or about the University Computing Service .

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Cambridge University Information System
All newsgroups available in the local news server
Computer Lab newsgroups:
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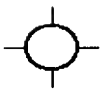
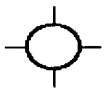
ucam.cl.misc
ucam.cl.students
Anonymous FTP area for cl.cam.ac.uk (also available via WWW)
Maps of the Computer Lab and How to get here
Find someone using their Active Badge . There's a Graphical Overview of the Active Badge system. *(Some of this information is only available to local machines - sorry)*
Library information
The status of the Trojan Room Coffee Machine
Usage statistics for this server, updated daily.
Information and recruitment details for members of the Computer Laboratory's industrial "Supporters-Club"
Job vacancies in the Computer Laboratory
Announcements of Computer Laboratory Seminars

For users in cl.cam.ac.uk only:

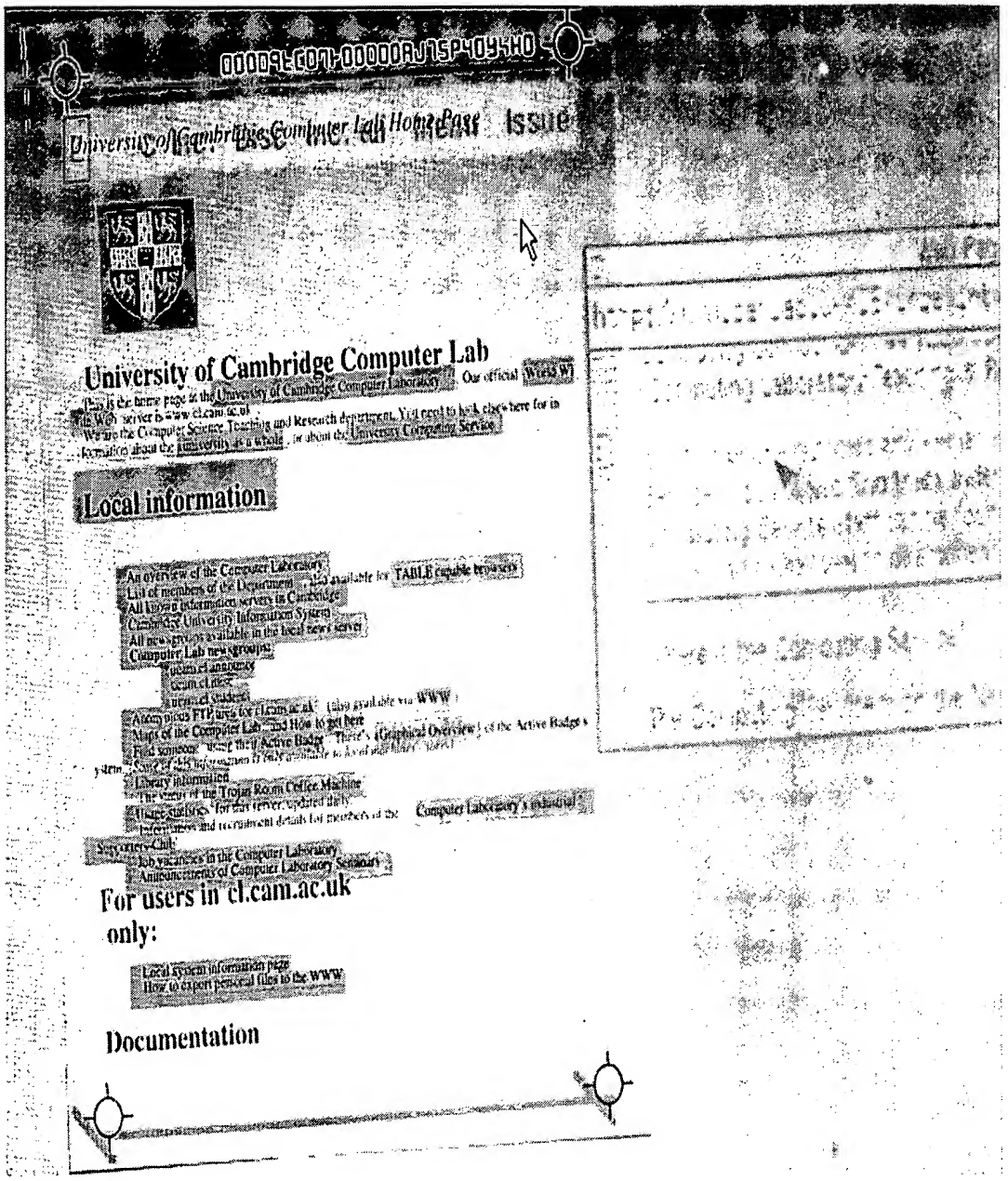
Local system information page
How to export personal files to the WWW

Documentation





(b) Printed version.



(c) Animated on the DigitalDesk.

Regarding claims 4, 16, and 28, Schena teaches **wherein a location indicator associated with the multimedia annotation is placed on the first multimedia document, wherein the location indicator indicates where the multimedia annotation can be retrieved and played**. Specifically, Schena discloses the link information corresponding to the provider information may include, a universal resource locator (URL), such as customer premises equipment (CPE) for displaying the multimedia sequence information. The multimedia sequence information may be advertising or transaction information and may contain one or more of textual, audio, or video information, and the customer premises equipment ("CPE"), serving as the receiver, plays multimedia sequence (Schena col.1, line 64 through col. 2. line 40).

Regarding claims 5, 17, and 29, Schena teaches **wherein the location indicator comprises a first Uniform Resource Locator (URL), and a second bar code, wherein the first URL is indicated in plain text, and wherein the second bar code represents the first URL in an encrypted form.** Specifically, Schena discloses the link information corresponding to the provider information may include, a universal resource locator (URL) (Schena col.1, line 64 through col. 2. line 40). In addition, the links can be encoded according to provider, for example UPC or ISBN numbers and any code may serve as the alphanumeric sequence (Schena col. 4, lines 45-55).

The Examiner equates the claimed **bar code** as equivalent to the UPC or ISBN numbers and any code as taught by Schena, and because the Applicant invention specification discloses "The annotation may be in different forms, such as, for example, a bar code containing an audio message or a URL indicating a link to a video clip." (Applicants invention specification page 7 lines 15-18).

Regarding claims 8, 20, and 32, the rejection of claim 1 is fully incorporated. In addition, Schena does not explicitly teach, but Robinson teaches **generating an image of the paper document, the image of the paper document being unconsciously captured via the document reproduction system during the reproduction of the paper document without user intervention**. Specifically, Robinson discloses the animated paper involves scanning image of the page from top to bottom, left to right and emitting text or images as appropriate. One of these is for the HTML of the page itself (Robinson page 4 the Export section).

The Examiner equates the claimed **unconsciously and without user intervention** as equivalent to the animated paper involves scanning image of the page itself as taught by Robinson.

Also, Robison teaches **storing the image of the paper document and the multimedia annotation in a storage, wherein the second multimedia document is an electronic document associated with the first multimedia document, which is a physical document.** Specifically, Robinson discloses a Registry, which maintains the association between electronic documents and their printed variants. It stores the image of each active document and the code of any interactions required for the document, together with cross references between these and further indexes to identify them (Robison page 3 the Registry section, also see Fig. 1).
It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Schena to include a method for generating an image of the paper document, the image of the paper document being unconsciously captured via the document reproduction system during the reproduction of the paper document without user intervention, and storing the image of the paper document and the multimedia annotation in a storage, wherein the second multimedia

document is an electronic document associated with the first multimedia document, which is a physical document as taught by Robinson. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination, because Schena and Robinson are from the same field of endeavor of providing multimedia annotation for a paper document and for the advantage of bridging the gap between the virtual multimedia-based of the Internet word and the physical world of printed media (Schena col.1, lines 5-15, col. 1 line 64 through col. 2. line 40), and allowing the database to be built and edited, imported and exported to other forms of hypertext, and for documents to be printed and animated on a DigitalDesk (Robison page 32 the Registry section).

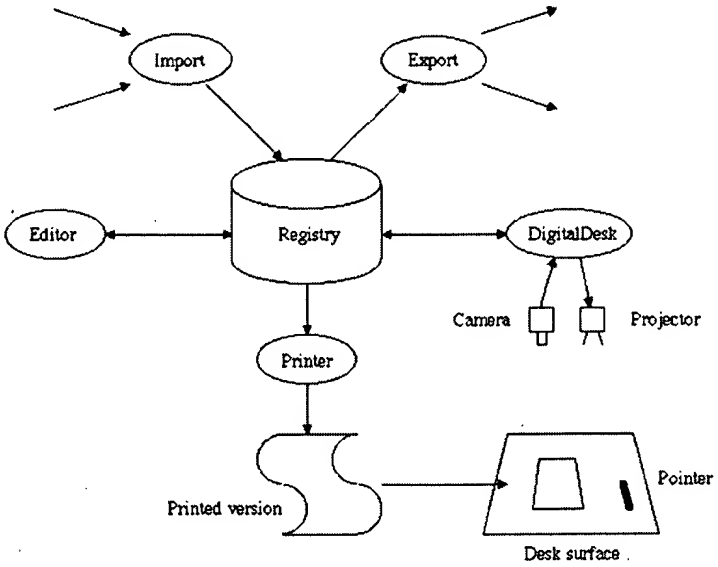


Figure 1: Animated paper document framework.

Regarding claims 9, 21, and 33, Schena teaches **wherein a multimedia document is represented as a second Uniform Resource Locator (URL) printed on the first multimedia document, and wherein the image of the paper document and the multimedia annotation is accessed with the second URL** (Schena col. 1 line 61 – col. 2 line 25 and col. 3 line 64 – col. 4 line 6).

Regarding claims 10, 22, and 34, Schena teaches **wherein a third bar code is used to represent a second URL** (Schena in col. 3 lines 58-63).

Regarding claims 11, 23, and 35, Schena teaches **automatically sending a second multimedia document to a recipient by electronic mail as a part of reproducing the paper document via the document reproduction system, wherein the recipient is specified by a user via an interface of the document reproduction system when the user reproduces the paper document using the document reproduction system.** Specifically, Schena discloses the link information was published or located, along with message-specific information (Schena col. 4 line 35).

The examiner equates the claimed **automatically sending a second multimedia document to a recipient by electronic mail** as equivalent to link information was published or located, along with a message as taught by Schena.

Regarding claim 44, Schena teaches **wherein the first multimedia document is a physical document having the first bar code printed thereon, which when scanned by a scanning device, causes the first bar code to be decoded and the audio sound to be extracted from the first bar code, and wherein the extracted audio sound is capable of being played via an audio player.** Specifically, Schena discloses the multimedia annotation

such that the multimedia annotation can be extracted and decoded subsequently from the first multimedia document, wherein the scanner detects and reads data, such as machine-readable codes containing link information corresponding to provider information from the printed medium. The link information corresponding to the provider information may include, a universal resource locator (URL), such as customer premises equipment (CPE) for displaying the multimedia sequence information. The multimedia sequence information may be advertising or transaction information and may contain one or more of textual, audio, or video information, and the customer premises equipment ("CPE"), serving as the receiver, plays multimedia sequence (Schena col.1, line 64 through col. 2. line 40). In addition, Schena discloses the scanner is capable of reading data such as non-coded data and machine-readable code 10 from the printed medium 50. The machine-readable code 10 (URL) may be a barcode, an enhanced barcode, a new enhanced code, or any type of code, including dynamic codes and high-density barcodes (Schena col. 3, lines 55-65).

The Examiner equates the claimed **bar code** as equivalent to the link information from barcode, code 10 (URL) may contain one or more of textual, audio, or video information as taught by Schena, and because the Applicant invention specification discloses "The annotation may be in different forms, such as, for example, a bar code containing an audio message or a URL indicating a link to a video clip." (Applicants invention specification page 7 lines 15-18).

Regarding claim 45, Schena teaches **capturing an audio sound of the multimedia annotation from a user using a microphone of the input device to annotate the paper document to create a multimedia paper document**. Specifically, Schena discloses an enhanced electronic device, digital appliances, and microphone (Schena col. 3, lines 40-65).

Also, Schena discloses the user interface obtains user input information. The user interface may be, for example, a voice-activated system, a keypad, or a keyboard (Schena col. 2, lines 25-45).

Regarding claim 46, Schena teaches **wherein the microphone is automatically activated when the user selects a reproduction function of the document reproduction system to reproduce the paper document**. Specifically, Schena discloses an enhanced electronic device, digital appliances, and microphone (Schena col. 3, lines 40-65). Also, Schena discloses the user interface obtains user input information. The user interface may be, for example, a voice-activated system, a keypad, or a keyboard (Schena col. 2, lines 25-45).

The examiner equate **the microphone is automatically activated** as equivalent to a voice-activated system as taught by Schena.

Regarding dependent claim 47, Schena teaches **capturing a video clip of the multimedia annotation from a user using a video camera of the input device to annotate the paper document to create a multimedia paper document**. Specifically, Schena discloses an enhanced electronic device, digital appliances, and microphone (Schena col. 3, lines 40-65). Also, Schena discloses the user interface obtains user input information. The user interface may be, for example, a voice-activated system, a keypad, or a keyboard (Schena col. 2, lines 25-45).

The examiner reads **a video camera of the input device** as equivalent to digital appliances, and microphone as a user interface for obtaining user input information as taught by Schena.

Regarding dependent claim 48, Schena teaches **wherein the video camera is automatically activated when the user selects a reproduction function of the document reproduction system to reproduce the paper document**. Specifically, Schena discloses an

enhanced electronic device, digital appliances, and microphone (Schena col. 3, lines 40-65). Also, Schena discloses the user interface obtains user input information. The user interface may be, for example, a voice-activated system, a keypad, or a keyboard (Schena col. 2, lines 25-45).

The examiner equates **the video camera is automatically activated** as equivalent to digital appliances, and microphone as a user interface for obtaining user input information as taught by Schena.

Regarding dependent claim 49, Schena does not teach **in response to a request to retrieve a second multimedia document, performing a content-based search for the requested multimedia document within the storage based on the content of the multimedia annotation associated with the requested multimedia document**. Robinson does teach parsing and indexing the multimedia documents contained in the registry for retrieval in fig. 1 and (the "Registry" section in pages 2-3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined Robinson into Schena to have created the claimed invention. It would have been obvious and desirable to have used the registry index of Robinson to have searched and located the appropriate multimedia document to retrieve.

Regarding dependent claims 50-52, Schena does not teach **wherein the content-based search is performed by OCR, audio speech recognition, or video face recognition techniques on the multimedia annotations of the multimedia documents being searched**. Robinson does teach parsing and indexing the contents of the multimedia documents contained in the registry using OCR, audio speech recognition, or video face recognition techniques (in fig. 1 and the "Registry" section in pages 2-3). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

the art at the time the invention was made to have combined Robinson into Schena to have created the claimed invention. It would have been obvious and desirable to have used the registry index of Robinson to have searched and located the appropriate multimedia document to retrieve.

8. Claims 12, 24, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schena et al. (hereinafter Schena), US 6,448,979 B1 filed 1/25/1999, in view of Robinson et al. "The Origami Project: Paper Interfaces to the World-Wide Web", [http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk/Research/Origami/Origami1997f/index.html], submitted to Webnet 97 in November 1997 (hereinafter Robinson), further in view of Halliday et al., US 5,880,740 filed 7/12/1996 (hereinafter Halliday).

Regarding claims 12, 24, and 36, Schena, and Robinson do not teach, but Halliday teaches **wherein the recipient receives the image of the paper document and the multimedia annotation in the form of Multi-purpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME). Halliday does teach sending an image of a document in the form of Multi-purpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME)**. Specifically, Halliday discloses MIME (Halliday col. 8, lines 5-28).

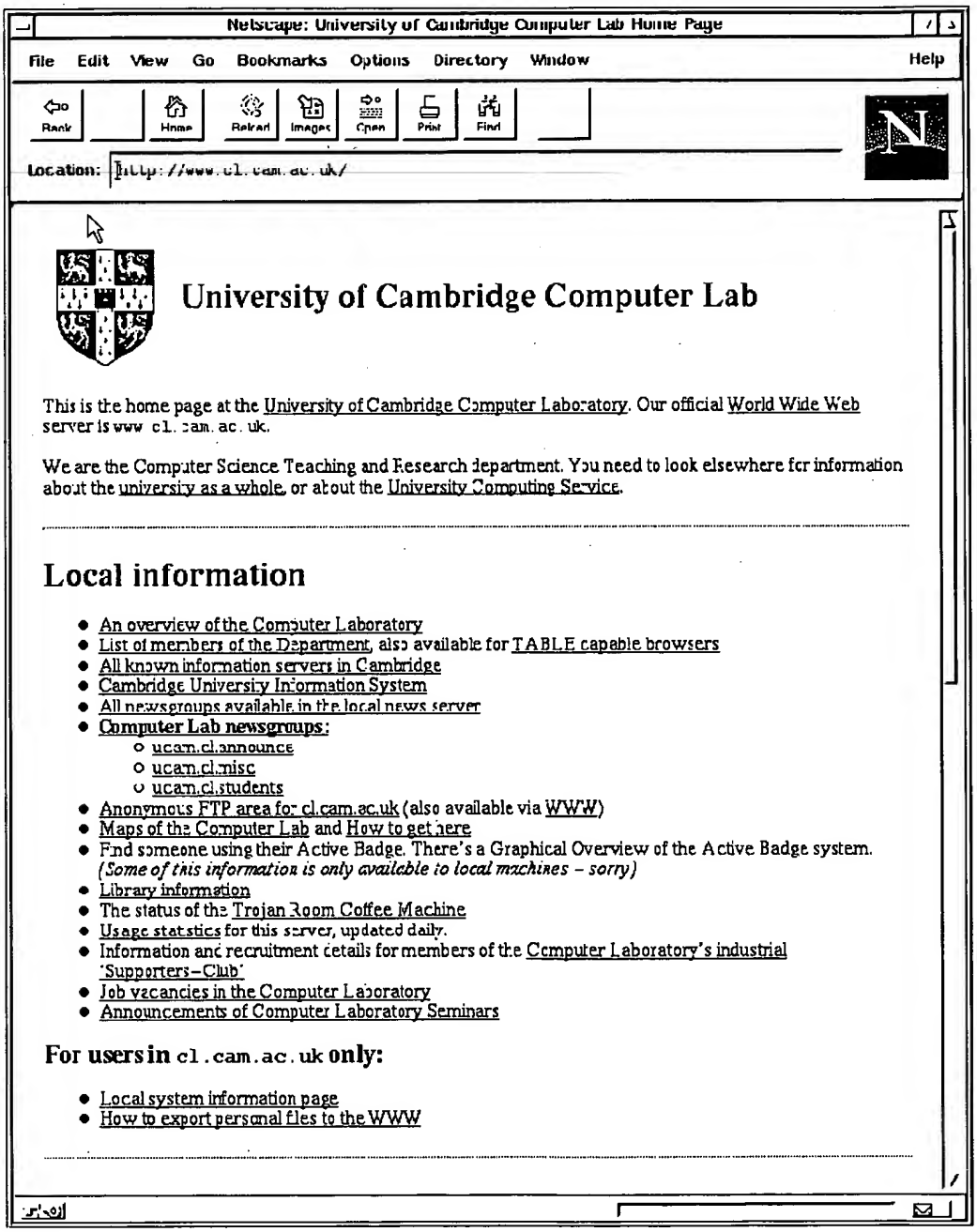
It would have been obvious and desirable to have used the Multi-purpose Internet Mail Extension (MIME) teaching of Halliday to have implemented the automatic sending of the electronic multimedia document of Schena in view of Robinson so that the recipient would have used any common email client to have received the electronic multimedia document sent from the user.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 05-03-2006 with RCE have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

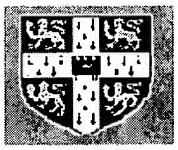
Applicant argues that the combination of Schena, Robinson, and Halliday fail to teach **combining a paper document with a multimedia annotation** (see Remarks page 14- mid). The Examiner disagrees. Specifically, **Schena** discusses in the abstract that the machine-readable code on the paper is used to communicate corresponding multimedia information when the machine-readable code is read by a scanner. The URL encoded in the machine-readable code points to a multimedia file. Thus, the machine-readable code on the printed medium annotates the printed medium with the referenced multimedia file, thus combining the printed medium with virtual multimedia. In combining the multimedia presentation with the printed medium, Schena has created a multimedia document of the claimed invention. Schena discusses in col. 2 lines 6-8 that the multimedia annotation may contain one or more of textual, audio, or video information. Furthermore, **Robinson** discloses the origami project, wherein the printed documents are annotated with marks in their corners to facilitate recognition and location on the desk top, and are also have a unique identifier printed in an OCR fount (see Robinson page 4 section Printing), these steps involve recognizing that a page printed by the system has appeared on the desk, determining its position, reading its unique identifier and locating any interactors. A transformation is then set up between the page representation stored in the registry and physical co-ordinates on the desktop. The printed document thus becomes part of the projected window system, wherein any active links are highlighted by projecting a red background over them. For a document originating on the Web, these correspond to links in the original HTML (Robinson

page 4 section DigitalDesk, also see fig. 2 a-c, as example of the process of annotating a printed media).



(a) Original Web page

University of Cambridge Computer Lab Home Page



University of Cambridge Computer Lab

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We are the Computet Scienoe Teaching and Research department. You need to look elsewhete for information about the univetsity as a whole , or about the Univetsity Computing Service .

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- ucam.cl.announce
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The status of the Trojan Room Coffee Machine
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Infotmation and tectuitment details for membets of the Computet Labotatoty's industtial Supportets-Club
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Announcements of Computet Laboratory Seminats

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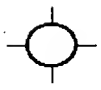
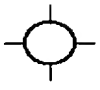
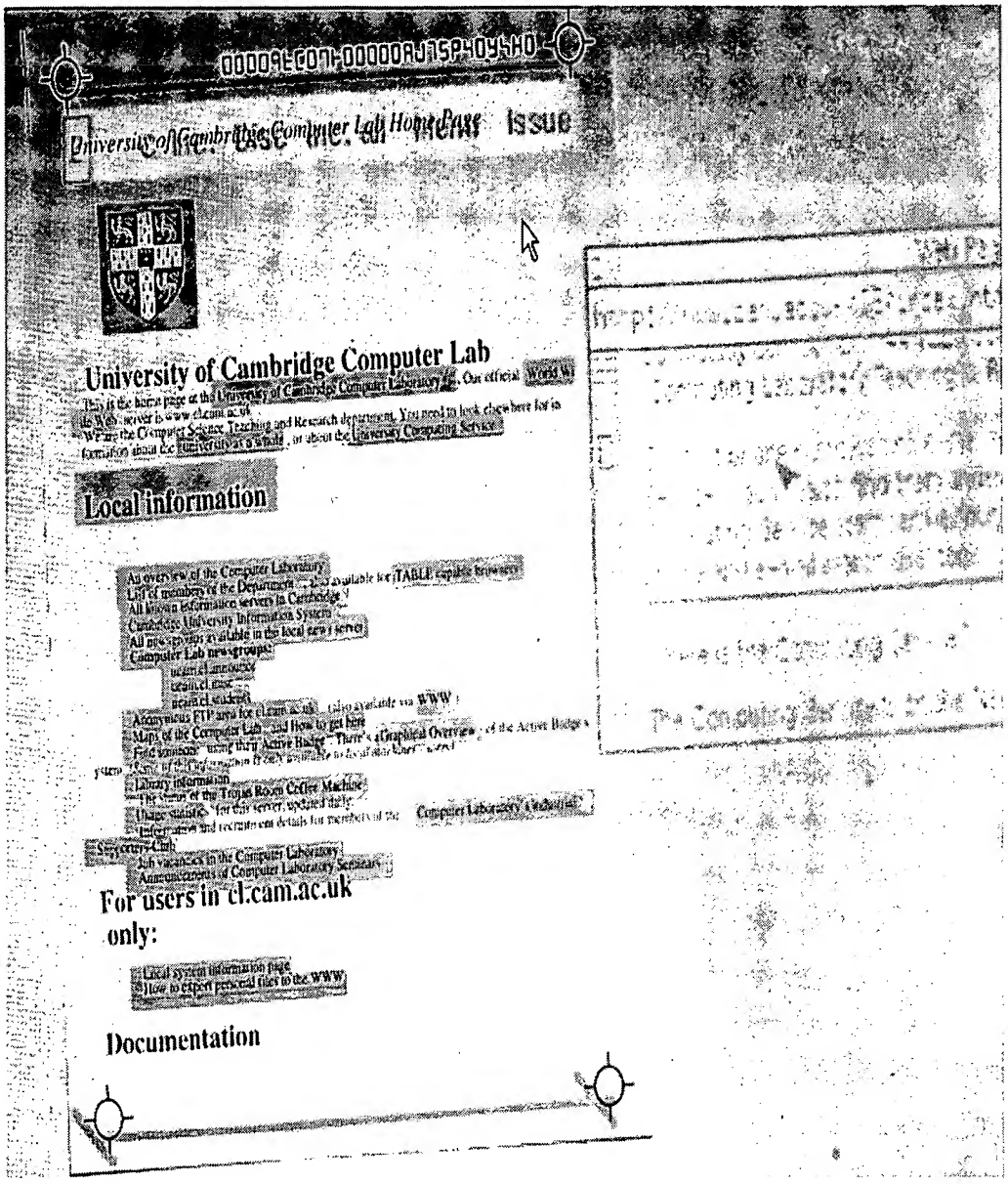
How to exptt petsonal files to the WWW

Documentation





(b) Printed version.



(c) Animated on the DigitalDesk.

Furthermore, the Applicant argues that the combination of Schena, Robinson, and Halliday fail to teach **at least one of an audio clip and a video clip via a bar code that encodes the audio and/or video clip** (see Remarks page 14 second half and pages 15-16). The Examiner disagrees. Specifically, Schena discusses in the abstract that the machine-readable code on the paper is used to communicate corresponding multimedia information when the machine-readable code is read by a scanner. The URL encoded in the machine-readable code points to a multimedia file. Thus, the machine-readable code on the printed medium annotates the printed medium with the referenced multimedia file, thus combining the printed medium with virtual multimedia. In combining the multimedia presentation with the printed medium, Schena has created a multimedia document of the claimed invention. Schena discusses in col. 2 lines 6-8 that the multimedia annotation may contain one or more of textual, audio, or video information.

For at least all the above evidence, therefore the Examiner respectfully maintains the rejection of claims **1, 4-5, 8-13, 16-17, 20-25, 28-29, 32-36, and 44-52**, and should be sustained at this time.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quoc A. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-8664. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM - 5PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Herndon R. Heather can be reached on 571-272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Quoc A. Tran
Jan. 18, 2007 GAU 2176

H Herndon

Heather R. Herndon
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